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RUMMING, T. W. *Taxation in a nutshell.* (London: Sutton. 1916. 6d.)

WHITE, J. D. *A scheme for land-value taxation.* (London: King. 1916. Pp. 16. 3d.)

*Comparative salary data; obtained from the payrolls of fourteen cities in the United States, forty-eight private establishments in Philadelphia and salary standardizations of seven American cities for one-hundred and twenty-eight positions in municipal service.* (Philadelphia: Bureau Munic. Research. 1916. Pp. 76.)

*Financial statement of the budget, 1916-17, with statement of rates of income tax and super tax.* (London: King. 1916. 3d.)

*The Fitch record of government debts.* (New York: Fitch Pub. Co. 1916. Pp. 312. \$10.)

*Tax law of the state of New York; being l. 1909, chap. 62, entitled "An act in relation to taxation, constituting chapter sixty of the consolidated laws," with all amendments made at the legislative session of 1916.* (New York: Baker, Voorhis. 1916. Pp. 263. \$1.50.)

## Population and Migration

### NEW BOOKS

BLONDEL, G. *Le problème de la population, conférence.* (Paris: Lethielleux. 1916. 0.60 fr.)

BRANDT, L. *Facts about the death-rate. Twenty-seven diagrams with descriptive text.* (New York: School of Philanthropy. 1916. Pp. 45.)

FONKALSRUD, A. O. *The Scandinavian-American.* (Minneapolis: K. C. Holter Pub. Co. 1915. Pp. 167. 75c.)

GIDE, C. *De la reconstitution de la population française.* (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1916. 1.50 fr.)

HOFFMAN, F. L. *The mortality from cancer throughout the world.* (Newark, N. J.: Prudential Press. 1915. Pp. 826. Gratis.)

*Declining birth-rate; its causes and effects. Being the report of and the chief evidence taken by the National Birth-rate Commission.* (London: Chapman & Hall. 1916. Pp. xiv, 450. 10s. 6d.)

## Social Problems and Reforms

### NEW BOOKS

BLOOMFIELD, M. *Readings in vocational guidance.* (Boston: Ginn. 1916. Pp. 738. \$2.25.)

BRANDT, L. *Facts about tuberculosis. Twenty-one diagrams with brief descriptive text.* Studies in social work no. 8. (New York: School of Philanthropy. 1916. Pp. 39.)

EISENMAN, C. *Everybody's business. A business man's interpretation of social responsibility.* (Cleveland: Burrows Bros. Co. 1916. Pp. 166.)

FARRAR, F. A. *Factories and great industries.* (New York: Putnam. 1916.)

GILLMAN, F. L. *The workers and education.* (London: Allen & Unwin. 1916. Pp. 68. 1s.)

HARRISON, S. M., director. *The Springfield survey.* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Surveys & Exhibits. 1916.)

HOLLINGSWORTH, H. L. *Vocational psychology. Its problems and methods.* (New York: Appleton. 1916. Pp. xviii, 308. \$2.)

KNOEPPEL, C. E. *Industrial preparedness.* (New York: Engg. Mag. Co. 1916. Pp. 145. \$1.)

KOREN, J. *Alcohol and society.* (New York: Holt. 1916. Pp. 271. \$1.25.)

MARQUIS, F. J., editor. *Liverpool. Handbook of employments in Liverpool.* (Liverpool: Education Committee. 1916. Pp. 277. 1s.)

MILLS, W. T. *Democracy or despotism.* (Berkeley, Calif.: Intern. School of Social Economy. 1916. Pp. xiv, 246.)

OLIVER, T. *Occupations from the social, hygienic, and medical points of view.* (Cambridge: Univ. Press. 1916. Pp. 120. 6s.)

PROUD, E. D. *Welfare work. Employers' experiments for improving conditions in factories.* (London: Bell. 1916. Pp. 380. 7s. 6d.)

RAUSCHENBUSCH, W. D. D. *The social principles of Jesus; written under the direction of Sub-committee on College Courses, Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations and Committee on Voluntary Study, Council of North American Student Movements.* (New York: Assoc. Press. 1916. Pp. 198. 50c.)

SHELTON, A. W. *The people's housing. The effect of the Finance act, 1910, on the building of cottages.* (London: Coöperative Prtg. Soc. 1916. Pp. 8.)

WATKINS, J. A. *Health conservation at steel mills.* Technical paper 102. (Washington: Dept. of Interior. 1916. Pp. 36.)

WILSON, R. J. and RATHBUN, W. L. *A study on food with special reference to the food value of the dietary at the New York City Municipal Sanatorium.* (New York: Dept. of Health. 1916. Pp. 17.)

*Government of the City of Rochester, N. Y. General Survey, Critical Appraisal and Constructive Suggestions.* Prepared for the Rochester Bureau of Municipal Research by the New York Bureau of Municipal Research. (Rochester, N. Y. 1915. Pp. 546.)

When the Rochester Bureau of Municipal Research became in-

corporated in 1915, it started out with a twofold purpose: (1) To get things done for the community through coöperation with public officials, by increasing efficiency and eliminating waste. (2) To serve as an independent, non-partisan agency for the purpose of keeping the public in touch with the city's business. The bureau assumed from the first that men in the public service will do their work faithfully and well, if they are not hampered by conditions that should not exist. Consequently, it planned to help public officials remove these handicaps so that they may be as free to introduce efficient methods as private officials are.

The first step in this constructive program was a careful, comprehensive analysis of the city government by a group of specialists representing the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, for the purpose of furnishing the people of Rochester with accurate information about their city's affairs.

The most important chapter of this report contains a valuable Summary of Suggestions, some of which can be made effective without a change in the city charter and others that will require a charter amendment before they can be adopted. In the succeeding chapters there is a detailed description of each of the municipal departments, with particular reference to budget methods, contracts and supplies, the Department of Public Safety—comprising the Bureaus of Police, Fire, and Health—the Department of Charities, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Engineering, and Parks and Playgrounds.

Although many serious defects are brought to light in the course of the investigation, the report is most severe in its criticism of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Charities. When we have read chapter after chapter of shortcomings and failures, and then turn to the general conclusions, we are indeed surprised to find this extremely significant statement:

"Rochester holds to the old style of charter—a mayor and a council made up of twenty-three members, one from each ward. The New York Bureau of Municipal Research has made administrative studies in some fifty different local governments and comprehensive studies of twenty-five city governments, and, notwithstanding the fact that Rochester still retains the old type of organization, the results and conditions which were found there are superior to those which have been found in any other city."

With this useful source of information to draw upon, the Rochester bureau will now strive to get the city administration to follow many of the suggestions which the New York bureau makes. The local organization is financed for the next five years by Mr. George Eastman, while the general supervision of the work is in the hands of eleven prominent business and professional men of Rochester who form the board of trustees.

WILLIAM KIRK.

*New York City conference of charities and correction. Proceedings of the sixth conference, May 25-27, 1915.* (New York. 1916. Pp. 266.)

*Report of the welfare work for employees for 1915.* (New York: Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. 1916. Pp. 15.)

*Second annual report of the commissioner of labor and industry of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1914.* Pt. I, *Production, wages, employees, welfare, and educational work.* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Dept. of Labor & Industry. 1915. Pp. 579.)

*Second report of the Central Control Board (liquor traffic) appointed under the Defence of the Realm (amendment no. 3) act, 1915, being report to March 31, 1916.* (London: Wyman. 1916. 4d.)

*A vocational guidance bibliography prepared for school and public libraries and arranged especially for youths, teachers, and specialists.* (Sacramento, Calif.: State Board of Education. 1916. Pp. 24.)

### Insurance and Pensions

*The Essentials of the Fire Insurance Business.* By EDWARD AUGUSTUS KETCHAM. (Madison, Wisconsin: The author. 1916. Pp. 301.)

The author has been for ten years an examiner in a state insurance department and his purpose in writing this book is stated to be "to place in convenient form the essential elements relating to the fire insurance business . . . for the student." The following chapters occupy 218 of the 301 pages and constitute the important part of the book: History of Fire Insurance (two chapters), Rating of Risks, Fire Insurance Accounting, and Examination of a Fire Insurance Company. The last two chapters, which are based upon the author's experience as an examiner, are the best part of the discussion. The book is almost wholly descriptive, with much detail in parts of it. The style is good, but there is a lack of unity and logical arrangement, each chapter reading as if it had been prepared as a paper or as an address. There is little discussion of the fundamental principles underlying fire insurance or of the concrete problems which arise in the conduct of the business.

In the chapter on Basic Principles of Insurance one reads (p. 4): "It [insurance] must have existed from the beginning of history." Mutual helpfulness or human coöperation doubtless did exist, but insurance as a business certainly did not. The technical definition of insurance is given as "indemnity against loss." Few students of life insurance, as well as of some other forms of insur-